

# Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

City of Kirkland Public Works Department



## WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Day April 22nd  
Special Collection Event April 25th  
Spring Garden Fair April 25th  
[Springgardenfair.com](http://Springgardenfair.com)

## INSIDE

ENERGY STAR® Your Way to Green  
Ask Rita  
Celebrate Earth Week

Visit us at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle)

## Rain Gardens

### What are rain gardens?

Rain gardens are attractive landscaped areas in shallow depressions. They catch runoff from rooftops, driveway, roads, & other areas that don't allow water to soak in. Rain gardens are planted with deep rooted, water & drought tolerant plants. They can be shaped to fit your lot & can be landscaped to fit the surroundings.

### How do they work?

Rain gardens allow runoff from rainwater to soak naturally into the ground. They help to slow & reduce storm runoff. Pollutants carried from runoff collect in the rain garden & filter through the plants' root systems & soil.



### Benefits of rain gardens:

- Reduce flooding on neighboring property, overflow in sewers, & erosion in streams by absorbing water from impervious surfaces.
- Filter oil & grease from driveways & roads, pesticides & fertilizer from lawns, & other pollutants from rainwater runoff before they reach storm drains & eventually streams, wetlands, & lakes.
- Provide habitat for beneficial insects & birds.
- Increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground to recharge local groundwater.

### Interested in building your own rain garden?

**The Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners** by WSU Pierce County Extension walks you through the planning & building of a rain garden step by step (available online at [www.pierce.wsu.edu/Water\\_Quality/LID](http://www.pierce.wsu.edu/Water_Quality/LID)).

Come see the City's demonstration rain garden at Juanita Beach Park in front of the Forbes House (11829 97th Ave NE).

# Join Us and ENERGY STAR® Your Way to Green



Earlier this year, the City of Kirkland joined ENERGY STAR as a Partner, and made a fundamental commitment to protect the environment through the continuous improvement of our energy performance in our government operations. The ENERGY STAR Challenge is a national call-to-action to improve the energy efficiency of America's commercial and industrial buildings by 10% or more. We believe that an organization-wide energy management approach will help us enhance our financial health and aid in preserving the environment for future generations.

You can join us! Making your home more energy efficient with ENERGY STAR can help to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort and help to protect the environment. Follow these simple and easy tips you can do at home:

- Look for the ENERGY STAR on consumer electronics products when purchasing.
  - Unplug cell phone battery chargers or power adapters when not in use, and turn off lights when leaving a room.
  - Install a programmable thermostat, which when properly programmed can save about \$100 every year in energy costs.
  - Find and seal air leaks in your home to keep hot air in during the winter and cool air in during the summer.
  - Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR to save up to \$65 each year in energy costs and use up to 75% less energy. Used fluorescent bulbs and tubes can be recycled. Visit [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and enter "fluorescent bulb" in the search box for a list of local businesses and organizations that will accept them.
  - Choose appliances that have earned the ENERGY STAR, and you can save \$80 a year in energy costs, while saving the environment.
  - Keep air registers and vents clear to allow air to flow freely throughout the room.
- To find out more ways you can save energy at home, visit:  
[www.energystar.gov/home](http://www.energystar.gov/home).

## Be an Earth Saver! Volunteer Soon!

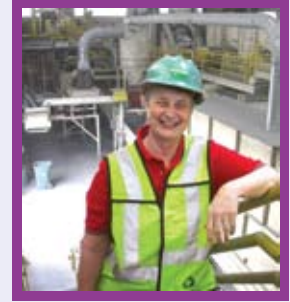
Many environmental stewardship opportunities are available with the City of Kirkland. Go to [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and enter "Kirkland Volunteer Opportunities" in the search box to find a complete listing of opportunities.

# Ask Rita: Confused about Contaminants

Dear Recycling Rita,

I want to do the right thing by recycling as much as possible, but I also want to be sure I'm putting the right thing in my recycling cart. Is it true that you don't want plastic bags or aluminum foil?

Conscientious, but Confused



Rita Smith

Dear Conscientious, but Confused:

**We appreciate your efforts to give us good clean recyclables to be made into high quality recycled products! These are some of our most common problem items at the recycling center:**

## **Plastic bags cause several problems:**

- **Recyclables inside plastic bags.** Recycling conveyors move over 500 tons of recyclables past our sorters every day at a very rapid speed. Bags of recyclables must be torn open and emptied before we can sort the contents. Please don't put recyclables in bags or boxes. Just put them loose into your recycling cart, and we'll do the rest!
- **Loose plastic bags.** Sorters have to quickly pull plastic bags out of the rapidly moving recyclables to keep the bags from wrapping around sorting equipment. When bags get into the machines, they have to be cut off by hand. In addition, the bags we collect at the recycling center are so dusty from paper fiber that they are worth only about 25% of the value of clean plastic bags accepted at most grocery stores.

The best advice about plastic bags is to avoid using them whenever possible. A durable shopping bag can be used for years, avoiding the need for producing and disposing of hundreds of plastic bags! Reducing and reusing should always be your first choice for preventing waste.

**Aluminum Foil:** Aluminum cans are our most valuable recyclable because they can be melted down and made into new aluminum cans over and over again. However, adding aluminum foil to bales of aluminum cans can actually reduce their value, since our buyers want the specific type of aluminum in cans. Aluminum foil is lighter weight, and can actually cause fires in furnaces as the aluminum is being melted to be made into new cans. If foil containers can't be reused, they should go in the garbage.

Although recycling is better than landfilling unwanted items, it still takes a very large amount of energy to collect, sort, transport and remanufacture recycled items into new products. It is important to remember to reduce the packaging you purchase and reuse the packaging you already have as the most basic ways to reduce your carbon footprint!

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As Waste Management's Community Education Director, Rita Smith promotes recycling and waste prevention for many Pacific Northwest cities, counties, residents and businesses. She manages Waste Management's community website, [www.wmnorthwest.com/Kirkland](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/Kirkland) and speaks at many community events. A sustainability activist for over 20 years, Rita is on the Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) Board of Directors and has been inducted into the WSRA Hall of Fame.



# Celebrate Earth Week



Sunday,  
April 19th

## Take a hike!

Leave your car at home for the day (or week or month) & try walking or biking instead. *The average American car emits 11,450 pounds of carbon dioxide yearly.*



Monday,  
April 20th



## Just say "NO" to junk mail

- Get off credit offer lists – call 1.888.5.OPTOUT
  - Sign up for the Mail Preference Service ([www.dmachoice.org](http://www.dmachoice.org))
  - Sign up for Catalog Choice ([www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org))
- The average American adult receives 41 pounds of junk mail each year.*

Tuesday,  
April 21st

## Idle no more

If your vehicle is stopped for 10 seconds or longer, turn OFF your engine! *Each day, Americans create unnecessary air pollution & waste approximately 3.8 million gallons of gasoline by voluntarily idling their cars.*

Wednesday,  
April 22nd

## Paper or plastic? Neither!

Carry your locally-grown, organic groceries home in your reusable shopping bags made of earth-friendly materials. *500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed & discarded annually worldwide!*

EARTH DAY!  
Thursday,  
April 23rd

## Shower power

Knock 2 minutes off your shower time. Use a timer to keep yourself honest! *The average American family uses 260 gallons of water in their home each day.*



Friday,  
April 24th

## Slay energy vampires

- Plug your home entertainment & computer components into power strips.
  - Buy appliances bearing the ENERGY STAR label & unplug rarely used appliances.
- Your TV likely uses more energy in the 20 hours that it's in standby mode each day than in the time spent watching your favorite shows.*

Saturday,  
April 25th

## Give Mother Earth a helping hand

Participate in the invasive plant removal project, from 9am to noon, at Juanita Bay Park (2201 Market St.). ([www.greenkirkland.org](http://www.greenkirkland.org)) *Hours volunteered for the environment are priceless.*



## Comments

The City of Kirkland would like to hear your comments about this newsletter or your suggestions for future issues. Please call (425) 587-3907 or email [vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us).

# Food Recycling Gets Easier

Most residents in Kirkland with curbside service already recycle food scraps and food soiled paper in their gray yard waste carts. How about you? If not, now is a great time to start!

## Why recycle food?

Recycling food reduces your garbage and also turns waste material into useful compost!

## What types of food can I put in my yard waste cart?

All types of food are accepted in the food recycling program including: fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, cheese and eggshells. You can also recycle coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, paper towels and napkins, and pizza boxes.

## What happens to your food scraps and yard waste?

All yard and food waste that is collected in Kirkland is transported to Cedar Grove Composting. Collected materials are shredded and composted in huge piles. Eight weeks later, your yard waste and old food scraps become rich compost ready for landscaping.

## How is Kirkland helping to make food recycling easier at home?

Free food scrap pails and samples of compostable bags are available from the City for your household to try.

- **Food Scrap Pail:** This pail can be used to collect food scraps in the kitchen. When it's full, empty it into your gray yard waste cart.
- **Compostable bags:** These bags are made from corn and are used to line reusable pails to help keep them clean. For a list of vendors of Cedar Grove-approved bags in Kirkland, visit [www.recyclefood.org](http://www.recyclefood.org).

You can pick up a free pail and/or bag sample at the Public Works counter at City Hall at 123 5th Avenue.



# A Better Way to Recycle Electronics

Did you know that over 6.5 million pounds of televisions, computers, and laptops were recycled in the first two months of the new E-Cycle Washington Program? It's true! You can now conveniently recycle your old TV's, desktop and laptop computers, and computer monitors for free, year-round in Kirkland and throughout King County.



For more information on the E-Cycle Washington Program or to find a collection site near you, go to [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org) or visit our Free Electronics Recycling webpage at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle).

**REMEMBER:** Only **televisions, desktop and laptop computers, and monitors** are included in the E-Cycle Washington program. Other electronic items and computer peripherals such as cell phones, printers, fax machines, mice, keyboards, DVD/VCR players, and other electronics devices are still collected for free at our spring and fall residential Kirkland Recycling Collection Events and at the curb for single-family (house) residents. To schedule a curbside electronics pick-up call Waste Management at (800) 592-9995 or schedule on-line at [www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland).





# Recycling Collection Event

**PRESENTED BY:** City of Kirkland & King County

**WHERE:** Houghton Park & Ride (NE 70th St & 116th Ave NE)

**WHAT:** Residential Collection Event

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 25, 9 AM to 3 PM

Clean out your garage and safely recycle items that cannot be left at the curb with your regular Waste Management pick-up service or recycled readily through product stewardship programs. Examples of items that you can bring are: tires, motor oil, batteries, clothing, porcelain toilets and sinks, electronic equipment and computer peripherals, and bulky wood.

**Important note!!!** Due to the new E-Cycle Washington Program, we will no longer accept televisions, desktop and laptop computers, and computer monitors at our Kirkland Recycling Collection Events. We will still continue to accept all other electronic devices at our events to include cell phones, printers, scanners, fax machines, mice, and keyboards. For more information on the E-Cycle Washington Program or to find a convenient free collection site near you, please visit [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org).

Single family (house) residents can still recycle all their electronics items at the curb year-round. Call Waste Management Customer Service at (800) 592-9995 at least one day before your regular garbage day or schedule the service on-line at [www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland)

Not sure what to do with those hard to recycle items? Visit King County's "What Do I Do With..." page from [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle).

**Fluorescent tubes and bulbs can be recycled at this event! (limit 10 tubes/bulbs per person)**



For tips on securing your load, please see [kingcounty.gov](http://kingcounty.gov) and enter "secure your load" or call (206) 296-4466.



\*Restrictions apply and some items are not collected. User fees cover the cost of proper processing and recycling. All items collected will be recycled. View the flyer at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle) or call the Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812 for more information.

Funding provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

## Kirkland Green E-Updates

Got email? Get great information on everything "green" by subscribing to Kirkland Green E-Updates!

Visit [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and click on the Kirkland Email Alerts icon.

Kirkland E-Mail Alerts



Reuse • Recycle • Conserve



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## Kirkland Residents: Did You Know?



When you wash your car on the street or in your driveway, the wastewater goes straight to the nearest storm drain & into local streams & lakes. This carwash water is toxic to fish & wildlife.

Commercial car washes protect our local streams & lakes, since they always send their wastewater to the sewer for treatment. Call (425) 587-3858 or email [badams@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:badams@ci.kirkland.wa.us) for a free commercial car wash ticket.

